May Newsletter: Tips & Tricks

Corel Paradox 8 Tips & Tricks (relative URLs)

Hidden Functions

With some simple code you can call fileBrowserEx and set it to filter for selected file types. This example will open the fileBrowserEx window and allow the user to search for all *.XMP and *.FSL files.

```
var
     fbi FileBrowserInfo
     selectedFile String
endVar

fbi.Alias = ":WORK:"
fbi.AllowableTypes = fbForm
fbi.CustomFilter = "(XMP Files) *.xmp|*.xmp||"

if fileBrowserEx(selectedFile, fbi) then
     message("You selected ", selectedFile)
else
     message("You selected cancel")
endIf
```

Although you can't create your own constants for AllowableTypes, if you only want the user to be able to search for *.XMP files you can use the undocumented constant 0 (zero).

The following code allows for the viewing of *.XMP files *only*:

```
var
     fbi FileBrowserInfo
     selectedFile String
endVar

fbi.Alias = ":WORK:"
fbi.AllowableTypes = 0
fbi.CustomFilter = "(XMP Files) *.xmp|*.xmp||"

if fileBrowserEx(selectedFile, fbi) then
     message("You selected ", selectedFile)
else
     message("You selected cancel")
```

```
        endIf
```

PlaySound Function

The 32-bit counterpart to Mmsystem.dll is WINMM.DLL, and the function is PlaySound. Here is an example:

```
Uses WINMM
     PlaySound(WavFileName CPTR, how CWORD, flag CWORD)
endUses

methodPushButton(var eventInfo Event)
     playSound("C:\\yourDir\\yourFile.wav",0,0)
endMethod
```

There are several values for Flag. Some of the parameters are:

0 – play synchronously
1 – play asynchronously
2 – silence
4 – points to memory file
8 – loop the sound until next
16 – don't stop any currently playing

Shortcut Keys

Useful but underused shortcut keys:

To open the Locate Value dialog box while in Table view:
CTRL + A

To delete a record from a database:
CTRL + DELETE

To activate the File menu for scroll key menu selection:
ALT + F, or F10

To open the Grid Properties dialog box while in Table view:
CTRL + G

To delete a block of records from a database:
Hold down the SHIFT key and highlight the records to delete using the arrow keys. Press Delete.

To open the Heading Properties dialog box while in Table view:

CTRL + H

To activate the right mouse button events listing:
CTRL + M

To switch between object types displayed in the Project Viewer:
Press the key of the first letter of the object type (e.g., T for tables, F for forms).

To find a record in a database:
CTRL + Z

Tip: Running a Report Based on a Query

One of the more powerful features of Corel Paradox 8 is the ability to run reports based on the results of a query.

Why run a report based on a query, rather than a table?
To demonstrate the usefulness of this capability, we'll look at a company with a staff of 10,000. If there is a need to run a report on a single employee from a table of orders containing 10,000 records, where each record includes an ID-number field to represent each employee, it is easier to run the report based on a query than based on a table.

To run a report based on a query instead of a table

1.   Develop and run your query to make sure it returns the information you want.
2.   Save the query.
3.   Click File, New, Report.
4.   Select Report Expert, Label Expert, or Data Model Design Layout.

If you selected the **Report Expert** or the **Label Expert**:
5.   At the option to choose a table, click the Browse button.
6.   Choose Queries from the Files Of Type list box.

If you selected the **Data Model Design Layout**:
5.   In the Type drop down list box, change the selection to <Queries>.
6.   You will see a list of all your queries in your current working directory. Click on either the Browse button to change the location of your query that is used in the report, or the Alias drop-down list box if the query is in a different alias definition.

You can now base your report on the queried information rather than the information contained in the entire table.